

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences issued a new grounds of rejection, more specifically, claims 129-170 and 175-181 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite for reciting the term "spaghetti-like". This term has now been removed from the claims, and replaced with the phrase "strand-like silicone rubber element" which finds support in the specification at, e.g., pages 5 and 10. Thus, the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been rendered moot.

Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any other fees that may be due to deposit account no: 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted,

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